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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,589	09/29/2003	Chen Chin J. Huang	SK703.PT1	4482

24943 7590 09/08/2004

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EXAMINER

GELLNER, JEFFREY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,589

Applicant(s)

HUANG, CHEN:CHIN J.

Examiner

Jeffrey L. Gellner

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>29 September 2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement is made of Applicant's IDS received 29 September 2003.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Invention I (claims 1-12) in the reply filed on 18 August 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the method suggested by Examiner is not as safe and effective as method claimed by Applicant (Remarks page 2 1st para.). This is not found persuasive because the standard is not whether the method suggested by Examiner is as efficient or effective as the method claimed by Applicant, but rather whether the method is materially different than Applicant's. Here, Examiner considers the method suggested by Examiner to be materially different even if not as efficient or effective.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL. Claims 13-20 are withdrawn from examination.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8-11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 7, "the clips" should be --the one or more clips-- to conform with language in line 5.

In claim 1, line 8, "members" should be --two or more separable members-- to conform with language in line 2.

In claim 1, line 8, "hinges" should be --one or more hinges-- to conform with language in line 3.

Art Unit: 3643

In claim 1, line 9, “members” should be --two or more separable members-- to conform with language in line 2.

In claim 2, line 1, “members” should be --two or more separable members-- to conform with prior language.

In claim 4, line 1, “hinges” should be --one or more hinges-- to conform with prior language.

In claim 5, line 1, “clips” should be --one or more clips-- to conform with prior language.

In claim 8, line 4, “animal design” should be --animal form-- to conform with the language of claim 7, line 2.

In claim 9, lines 1-2, “animal design” should be --animal form-- to conform with the language of claim 7, line 2.

In claim 10, lines 1-2, “animal design” should be --animal form-- to conform with the language of claim 7, line 2.

In claim 11, line 1, “clips” should be --one or more clips-- to conform with prior language.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 3643

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 12, line 1, the element “wire” lack prior antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Otake (JP2000-201545).

As to Claim 1, Otake discloses a maneuverable topiary frame (Figs. 1-11) comprising two or more separable members (16 and 2 of Fig. 3); one or more hinges (13 of Fig. 1), integrally a part of the frame, and connecting at least two adjoining separable members (Figs. 1 and 3); one or more clips permanently affixed to a member (region around 14 of Fig. 1); wherein at least one of the hinges adjoining two of the members forms a main structure (shown in Fig. 1) and wherein the clips when released enable one or more of the members to move upon a center axis and pivot or rotate along their hinges, and when engaged secure the members from moving, as a three-dimensional unitary form (Fig. 1).

As to Claim 4, Otake further discloses one or more hinges that are two lengths of interwoven wire (the top and bottom hinges shown above 13s in Fig. 1; that is hinges at very top and bottom of 12 in Fig. 1) in along a common axis of the two separate members.

As to Claim 5, Otake further discloses hooks (14 of Fig. 1) for clips.

As to Claims 7 and 9, Otake further discloses the three-D unitary form being a bear with arms and legs (Figs. 1-11).

As to Claim 11, Otake further discloses the one or more clips located opposite the hinges (Fig. 1 of Otake).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otake (JP2000-201545) in view of DiMuzio (US 6,237,882 B1).

As to Claims 2 and 3, the limitations of Claim 1 are disclosed as described above. Otake further discloses support pieces (shown in Fig. 1) to support the entire frame. Not disclosed is a filler frame of mesh along a number of gaps between support pieces. DiMuzio, however, discloses a filler frame of mesh along a number of gaps between support pieces (shown in Fig. 14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

Art Unit: 3643

modify the frame of Otake by using a filler mesh as disclosed by DiMuzio so as to provide additional support and shape (see DiMuzio at col. 4 lines 44-48).

As to Claim 6, the limitations of Claim 3 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed are the support pieces higher gauge wire and the filler being lower gauge wire. DiMuzio, however, discloses a frame with support pieces higher gauge wire (col. 3 lines 56-58) and the filler being lower gauge wire (col. 4 lines 44-46).

As to Claim 8, Otake in view of DiMuzio further disclose the extremities correspond to objects in addition to arms and legs (in that, 20 of Fig. 14 is capable of holding fruit, vegetables, or candles - col. 4 lines 11-21 of DiMuzio).

As to Claim 10, the limitations of Claim 8 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed is the animal from being a seal with the object a ball. However, because a bear design with fruit etc. was an art-recognized equivalent to a seal and ball in animal-from topiaries where in is immaterial as the exact animal form, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the bear/fruit with the seal/ball in the topiary of Otake as modified by DiMuzio.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otake (JP2000-201545) in view of Pierce (US 4,190,984).

As to Claim 12, the limitations of Claim 1 are disclosed as described above. Not disclosed is the wire galvanized. Pierce, however, discloses a topiary with galvanized wire (col. 4 lines 24-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

Art Unit: 3643

invention to modify the frame of Otake by using galvanized wire as disclosed by Pierce so as to have the wire resistant to the weather so as to prolong the outdoor life of the frame.

Conclusion

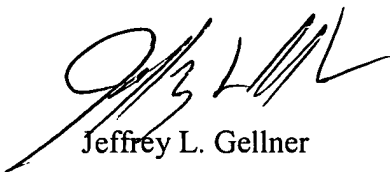
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Otake (JP2001-62156) discloses in the prior art a topiary of wire. Pan discloses in the prior art a frame with hinges.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Jeffrey L. Gellner whose phone number is 703.305.0053. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Peter Poon, can be reached at 703.308.2574. The official fax telephone number for the Technology Center where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.1113.



Jeffrey L. Gellner

Primary Examiner